

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, February 6, 2004

MAYOR OUTLINES PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES IN STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

Mayor Williams outlined his Administration's public safety accomplishments and priorities this week during his annual State of the District Address, delivered Thursday night at the Lincoln Theatre in Northwest. The Mayor said that among his top priorities for the Police Department are putting more officers on the streets and giving the MPDC a larger role in school safety. The Mayor pointed out that, working with the DC Council, the MPDC is increasing its sworn staff by about almost 200, to a total of 3,800 officers by the end of the current fiscal year. In addition, the Mayor called on the Council to work with him in "civilianizing" up to 300 MPDC positions over the next three years—that is, hiring civilian employees for critical staff functions currently handled by sworn members, so that the uniformed personnel can be shifted to operational assignments in DC's neighborhoods. In the area of school safety, the Mayor for the short term called on Chief Ramsey to develop a school security plan for Ballou Senior High School, where a 17-year-old student was shot and killed earlier in the week (see below). Long term, the Mayor said, "Our police department should have control over all crime-fighting in our city, whether it happens in our housing projects or at our schools." Mayor Williams also called on the Council to enact juvenile justice reforms his Administration has proposed, and he said the federal government must increase funding for the US Marshals Service so it can serve more of the 8,000 outstanding arrest warrants in DC. The Mayor has provided the MPDC with additional funding to supplement the Marshals Service in serving warrants.

- ① Read—or watch—the Mayor's complete State of the District Address by visiting:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/soda/index.shtml>

SUSPECT ARRESTED, SECURITY ENHANCED FOLLOWING DEADLY SHOOTING INSIDE BALLOU HIGH SCHOOL

A quick and concerted response by the MPDC resulted in the apprehension of the suspect in this week's fatal shooting inside Ballou Senior High School in Southeast. The homicide, reportedly the first inside a DC public school since 1996, occurred in the hallway outside the school's cafeteria. Eighteen-year-old Thomas J. Boykin, a student at Ballou, is alleged to have pulled a firearm and fatally shot fellow student James Richardson, age 17, in the chest and wounded an 18-year-old student in the leg. An arrest warrant charging Boykin with the homicide was obtained later that day, and he surrendered to the MPDC the following day. Boykin is charged with Murder II While Armed, and has been ordered held in jail pending trial. Investigators are still examining how the firearm got into the school, which is equipped with metal detectors operated by DCPS security personnel. Following the shooting, the MPDC assigned additional personnel to supplement DCPS security and the two MPDC School Resource Officers who work at Ballou. At the direction of Mayor Williams, the MPDC is also devising a comprehensive security plan for Ballou. During a community meeting at Ballou following the shooting, the Mayor, Chief Ramsey, and school and community leaders stressed that it will take a community-wide effort to improve safety at Ballou and all of DC's schools.

- ① For more information on this tragic crime, read the news releases at:
<http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2553>
- ① In an effort to raise awareness of gun violence, the MPDC continues to participate in the "Coaches Against Gun Violence" program, organized by the DC-based Alliance for Justice. Details at:
www.CoachesAgainstGunViolence.org
- ① For additional school safety information and resources, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolsafetylinks.shtml>

4D'S HENRY GALLAGHER AND MICHAEL EAMES ARE HONORED DURING "CHAMPS" AWARDS CEREMONY

Officer Henry Gallagher Jr., of the Fourth Police District, exhibits a level of commitment and dedication to the MPDC that is rarely matched. He not only makes a substantial number of arrests, but also participates in community-based initiatives and provides educational and outreach programs for DC residents. On January 4, Gallagher and fellow 4D Officer Michael Eames conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with two adults and a juvenile. As Officer Gallagher approached the vehicle, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana and questioned the driver about the smell. The driver got nervous and suddenly reached for a fully loaded handgun. Officer Eames grabbed the driver's wrist. After resisting briefly, the subject gave up and dropped the gun. The officers arrested the driver and charged him with various weapons and drugs charges. For their quick actions and bravery, Gallagher and Eames were two of the 21 MPDC members who were honored during the February CHAMPS Awards Ceremony.

NEW ROUND OF TRAINING OFFERED ON NEW ABC REGULATIONS IN DC

DC's Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) is once again offering to all licensed alcoholic beverage establishments and the business community a series of specialized trainings on the new ABC regulations recently approved by the DC Council. These training sessions will help merchants gain a better understanding of the new ABC regulations prior to their implementation. The participants will receive handouts; participate in a question-and-answer session; and discuss issues with ABRA officials. Topics that will be covered include how the new ABC regulations will affect an ABC business, the new ABRA civil penalty and fine schedule, upcoming increases in license fees, new available permits and licenses, changes to ABC managers' licenses, moratorium procedures, charging a corking fee, and much more. Each participant will receive a certificate of participation. As the ABRA and MPDC step up enforcement of DC's ABC regulations, these training sessions are an excellent opportunity for merchants to get informed and have their questions answered.

NEWS & NOTES

Neighborhood Citizen Summits. As a follow up to last fall's Citizen Summit III, Mayor Williams will be holding a series of "Neighborhood Citizen Summit" in each of DC's eight wards during February. For dates, times and locations, visit <http://neighborhoodaction.dc.gov>.

Presidents Day Closings. In observance of Presidents Day, most administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Monday, February 16. Police patrols, emergency communications and other essential operations will be fully staffed.

PSA Restructuring Hearing. DC Council Judiciary Committee Chair Kathy Patterson has scheduled a hearing on the MPDC's Police Service Area (PSA) Restructuring plan for Tuesday, February 24, at 10 am in Room 412 of the Wilson Building. The plan, which reduces the number of PSAs from 83 to 43, is designed to improve police services in DC neighborhoods and enhance public involvement in community policing. For more information, including maps of the proposed PSAs and police districts, visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtm

① Read about the actions of all of this month's awardees at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2004/02.shtm>

① CHAMPS—which stands for Capital Hotels Awards Metropolitan Police Service—is sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. This month's ceremony was hosted by the Capital Hilton Hotel in Northwest. Learn more about this monthly award program at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/champs.shtm>

① For the times and locations of the upcoming training sessions, call the ABRA at (202) 442-4499. Some sessions will be held in Spanish and Korean.

① For more information about underage drinking enforcement, as well as details on DC's liquor licensing regulations, visit the ABRA website at:
<http://abra.dc.gov>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 2/6/04)

- 2004: 24
- 2003: 21
- % Change: +14.3%
- Closure Rate: 70.8% (17 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 1/31/04)

- Total: 708
- Drugs: 124
- Homicide: 3
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 17
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 22

Firearm Recoveries (as of 2/3/04)

- February: 20
- 2004 Total: 220

Traffic Fatalities (as of 2/6/04)

- 2004: 5
- 2003: 4
- % Change: 25.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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